

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-14 EUR-25 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4369

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 5848

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST MORTARING OF SCHOOL, SONG PHU VILLAGE,
VINH LONG PROVINCE

REF: (A) SAIGON 5845; (B) SAIGON 3747

1. WE STRONGLY URGE DEPARTMENT MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT AT NEXT PRESS BRIEFING CALLING ATTENTION TO SECON DMORTARING IN TWO MONTHS OF SCHOOL, THIS TIME IN SONG PHU VILLAGE, VINH LONG PROVINCE, DETAILS OF WHICH IN REF A. (FOR MARCH 9 CAI LAY INCIDENT SEE REF B.) BELIEVE WE SHOULD USE THIS INCIDENT TO HIGHLIGHT TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF COMMUNIST TERRORIST POLICY OF DELIBERATELY BRINGING POPULATED AREAS UNDER FIRE. WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

2. AMERICANS CAN ONLY FEEL HORROR AND SORROW AT THE SECOND TRAGIC INCIDENT IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS IN WHICH COMMUNIST TERRORIST ACTS VIOLATING THE PARIS AGREEMENT HAVE CLAIMED THE LIVES OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ON MARCH 9 THE MORTARING OF A SCHOOL AT CAI LAY CAUSED THE DEATH OF 32 CHILDREN AND THE WOUNDING OF MANY OTHERS WHILE ASSEMBLED IN THEIR SCHOOL. LAST
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SATURDAY, MAY 5, COMMUNIST FORCES MORTARED ANOTHER SCHOOL AT

MID-AFTERNOON IN NEARBY SONG PHU VILLAGE, KILLING SEVEN SCHOOL CHILDREN AND WOUNDING ABOUT 25 OTHERS AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF ADULTS. THIS WAS CLEARLY NOT JUST AN ACCIDENT BUT A DELIBERATE ATTACK ON A POPULATED PLACE. SONG PHU IS A PEACEFUL VILLAGE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ATTACKED SINCE 1968. SEVERAL MORTAR ROUNDS IMPACTED, SOME IN THE SCHOOL ITSELF AND SOME NEARBY. WHAT HAPPENED CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS A WANTON ACT OF TERRORISM. I KNOW THE HEARTS OF AMERICANS GO OUT IN SORROW AND SYMPATHY TO THE PARENTS OF THESE YOUNG CHILDREN WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN SO SENSELESSLY DESTROYED.
MARTIN

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